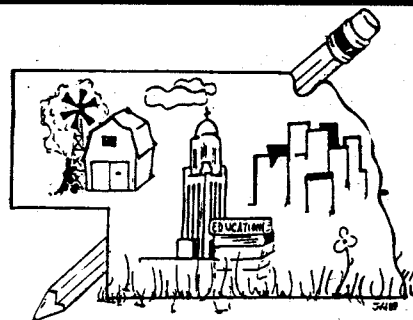


The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 6, No. 8, August 1, 1991



From Creighton's SCOLA Satellite Feeds

Cox Cable Omaha May Add Newscasts from 30 Countries to Lineup

Millions of cable television viewers outside Omaha know the city as the broadcaster of television news programming from almost every country in the world. So do many military and government planners. At the end of their favorite program, for example, "daily news in Sri Lanka," they see a screen that says "SCOLA, 2500 California Street, Omaha, NE 68178-0778."

The source of SCOLA, "Satellite Communications for Learning," is a small office, staffed by 15 full time people, with a budget of 7-800,000, on the Creighton campus. SCOLA now operates out of one trailer and one end of a temporary building in Creighton's Burt Street parking lot. It would be inconspicuous except for the many huge transmitter dishes on rooftops and adjacent to the temporary building units.

SCOLA's founding father is a Father, Jesuit Lee Lubbers. Lubbers, in his sixties, is famous for innovation in outdoor sculptures and teaching. After a recent SCOLA conference (they are held annually at various participating universities) Lubbers and his colleagues in the SCOLA consortium were described as follows: "These people are certainly not afraid of technology, but they have a passion to use it wisely."

SCOLA transmits news programming, sometimes live or same-day, from more than thirty countries in twenty languages, twenty-four hours a day. It receives broadcasts from all over the world with dishes ranging in size up to 30 feet. It also relies on overnight couriers who bring videotapes from individuals around the world.

For news programs for four languages, Japanese, Russian, English, and Arabic, it also offers printouts of the original text and translation, as well as vocabularies, specialty glossaries, and sample quiz and discussion topics. Lubbers hopes that they will be able to expand this service to all twenty languages by the end of the year. Also by year's end, they plan to offer the option of closed caption English subtitles for all programs (viewers would need to purchase a device to convert the signal), and all live broadcasts.

More than 700 schools, institutions and individuals find SCOLA to be so valuable and

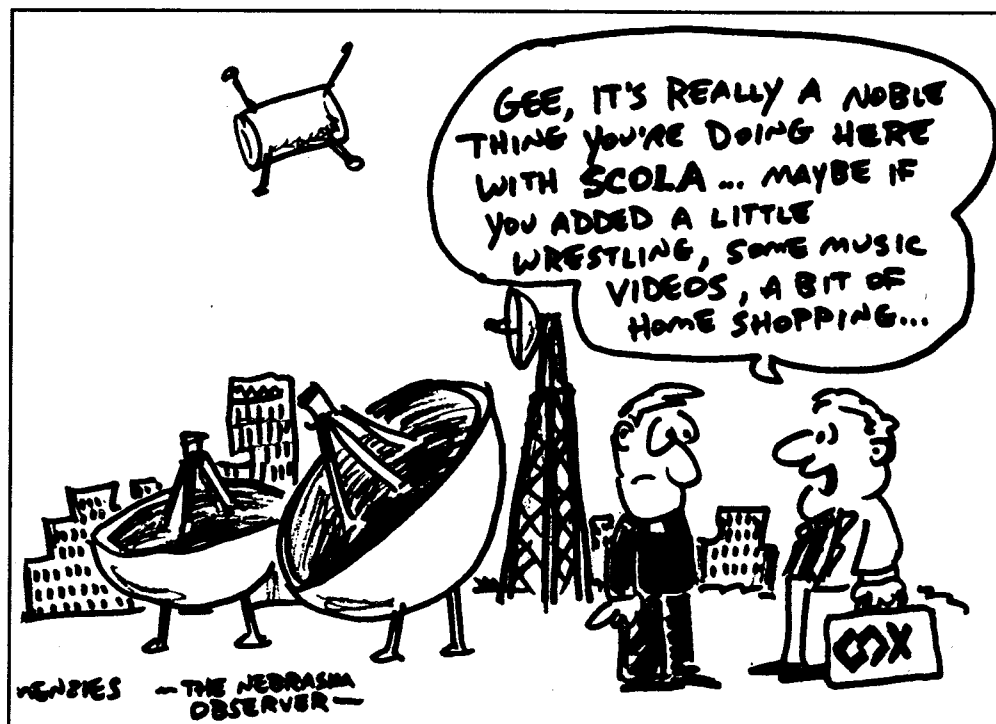
cost effective that the program is, and has been almost from the beginning, self-sufficient. The cost depends on how big the subscribing group is; for an individual it is \$150 per year (buy your own satellite dish), for a group it is as low as \$.10 per year per individual. The charge to the cable companies (mainly Cox) to make SCOLA available to all the households served by the Omaha Public Schools would be about \$6,000 per year according to Lubbers. SCOLA now serves some 25 big city cable systems in places such as Des Moines; Milwaukee; Columbus, Ohio; and Monomonee Falls, Wis.

SCOLA began in 1983 by hooking up dorm rooms and class rooms at Creighton to provide students with satellite borne programming. Late spring that year, Lubbers hosted a conference to display his cable system to 35 other schools around the country. Lubbers recalls that it only took 15 minutes for everyone in attendance to decide that what they wanted to do was to get television off satellites from the other side of the earth. Thus the SCOLA consortium, which was formed to utilize satellite television for educational purposes, became the broadcaster of international news programs that it is today.

Now SCOLA has gotten beyond the technical problems. "When I first came to a SCOLA conference a few years ago, the talk was all technical — how to pull all those signals out of the sky. Today we take it for granted. And the SCOLA conference can now concentrate on how educators can best use this new tool in the classroom," wrote Jack Dunn of the Mueller Planetarium at UNL in a recent SCOLA newsletter.

"Scola" of course, means school, as anyone over 40 will remember from Latin. Lubbers gets one more respectful — and somehow ironic — citation of the classic language into his work. The motto for SCOLA is "Securus judicat orbis terrarum," the whole world can't be wrong.

But even though the whole world can't be wrong, Omaha has until recently, missed out on a good thing. Omaha Public Schools employs 87 teachers to teach foreign languages to some 16,000 students. Imagine how much their impact could be enlarged with the rein-



forcement of television news broadcasts.

Last March, the Observer contacted Mike Kohler of Cox Cable to ask the company to return SCOLA to the Omaha community. He assured us that he thought SCOLA was valuable and important, and that it would be restored to Cox programming as soon as he and Father Lubbers could arrange to meet and iron out the details.

But when we contacted Lubbers for this article, he said that nothing had happened. We called Kohler again, and again got the same friendly commitment, following an admission that so far, "about the most progress is your phone call today." But this time Kohler promised to take action immediately. He would contact Lubbers and call me back within the two days left before we went to press.

As we go to press, Kohler has not returned the call, but we did find out from Lubbers that they had met and had agreed on a price, \$6,000 per year and a time to begin the

service. Lubbers said they hoped to begin service August 1. He told us that Kohler plans to confirm the plan in a day or two after he has met with his people.

So with that information, we are crossing our fingers, hoping for the best, and going to press.

Inside:

Farmer says don't tax our inventory....3

Michigan ousted from its nuke compact...11

Johnny Gosch's parents believe Bonacci.....16

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The Omaha World-Herald, A Larouchian Front Group?

by Frances Mendenhall

I hadn't heard from the Bennington Badger for a couple of years, but recognized his voice on the phone immediately.

How are you doing, Badge, I said. Long time no call. All my friends who host talk shows wonder what happened to you.

I've been sick, he explained. But I happened to pick up last Sunday's Weird-Herald and almost lost my lunch, so I had to give you a call.

The Bennington Badger and I had gotten acquainted years ago when the Observer was called WHAMO (the World-Herald Attitude Monitoring Operation). His mission in life was to alert every news room when news about the CIA, the nuke industry, military contractors, etc., was being covered up. He really had his hands full, but even allowing for the difficulty of the task, he often came off shrill sounding to journalists around town. Not to mention obnoxious. But then that was why he gave himself the name Badger.

Well let me guess, I said. You didn't like Bob Dorr's story pinning the whole Franklin "hoax" on a dead man and a guy in jail.

Story, he said, or rather screamed. It was a diatribe! I can't believe they print such unsubstantiated stuff any place but the editorial pages. In fact here's why I called. I am convinced that the World-Herald is a LaRouchian conspiracy.

Why is that, I asked.

Just look at what they do, he said. They get rid of any employee that doesn't agree with them, they think there's a conspiracy to promote a hoax, and their political views give new meaning to the term "right-wing."

Come on, Badge, I said. That doesn't make them tools of LaRouche. Besides, you've got it backwards. The LaRouchians are supposed to be on the other side of this controversy.

But that's exactly the point, he said. Everybody knows the LaRouche people switch sides when you least expect it, and isn't that what has happened here? Who could have guessed that the moralistic old World-Herald

would be in the position of covering up a scandal about sex and drugs?

And don't forget about homophobia, he went on. Remember that memo Woody Howe sent out telling his people not to use the term "gay love" because love was the term reserved for people like Romeo and Juliet.

Well, I don't know, I said. What got you so upset about Dorr's article?

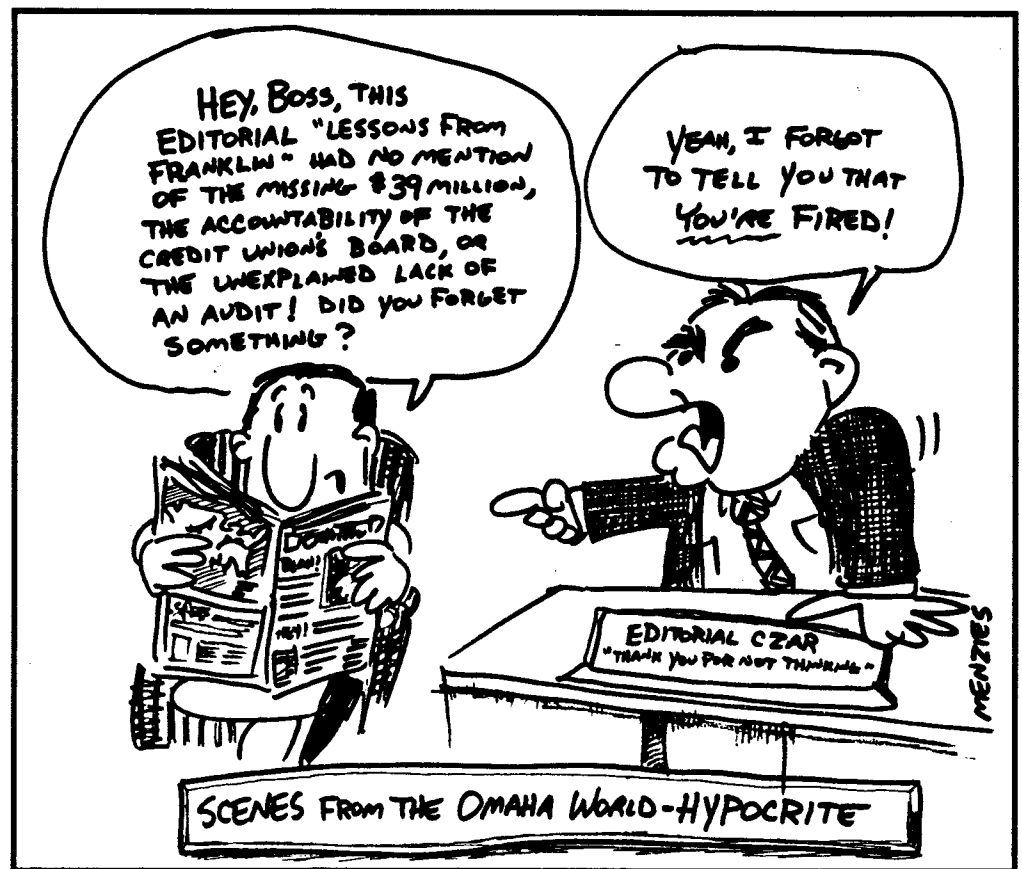
Look, he said, some of this stuff he printed was really off the wall. For instance, he said that in late 1988 Owen and Casey had spent evenings visiting Omaha bars and Casey told Owen he was trying to find out about prominent men whom he named who had been involved in illegal acts. Have you ever heard that one before? You were at the trial, right?

Yeah, I was, and you're right, I never heard that one before.

I recalled that Casey had not come up at the trial except in the opening remarks of the prosecutor. They never tried to make the case that he had orchestrated anything.

It sounds like Dorr was printing rumor, said Badger.

Then what about this bogus headline about Anne Boyle, Badger continued. The point of the story was that Anne Boyle did not participate in allegations about Robert Wadman as a child molester, but the headline makes it sound as if Owen and Boyle were plotting together. Plus the fact that they imply in the headline that both were hurt by Wadman,



when in the article it says the letter didn't say by which people. In fact it occurred to me that they were both hurt by the World-Herald!

Good point, I said.

And to add insult to injury, they found an excuse to hook in Anne Boyle's name into the front page material as a lead-in to the inside articles. When was she ever part of this story, let alone Sunday front page?

By then I was thinking of some headlines I had read in the LaRouchian publications like

the New Federalist. But I didn't say anything about that to the Badger. He was agitated enough. I did wonder out loud, however, whether Anne Boyle had gone nuts sharing a piece of private correspondence with anyone from the World-Herald.

Whoknows, said the Badger. Maybe they've

Continued on page 4

Observer Deadlines

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submit ideas by September 16,
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Farm Inventory Tax 'Dumber Than a Bucket of Hair'

by Jeff Kirkpatrick

During the 1970's Nebraska's voters, legislature, and Supreme Court all approved a series of changes that took most of the state's personal property off the tax rolls. The exemptions included a wide variety of items, everything from couches to cows. We made this substantial change for a variety of reasons. Foremost among the reasons was practicality.

Personal property tax is a clumsy tax which is impossible to apply fairly without a horde of assessors. Imagine trying to count every head of cattle in the Sandhills, or every couch in Bellevue. Personal property had been a largely self-assessed tax. The widespread cheating this produced led to it being called the liars' tax. The tax consequences were simple. People who lied about the amount of property they owned shifted a portion of their tax burden to more honest folks. For a tax system to have the support of the public, it must be considered to be generally equitable. Personal property tax obviously wasn't.

A broad based personal property tax is no more practical today. Human beings still have the same propensity to lie for monetary gain and we have invented no miraculous system which makes the tax easier to collect. Only two things have basically changed, the Supreme Court and people's memory. The long absence of the curse of a broad personal property tax system has led many people to forget what a headache it was to try to collect in a fair manner.

Exempted For a Reason

What is often forgotten amid all the demagoguery over the excessive number of exemptions we have for personal property is that those exemptions were passed for solid economic reasons. Indeed opponents of those exemptions have thus far invested little energy in explaining why that economic reasoning is no longer valid.

Economic reasons for the exemptions are twofold. First, no tax should seriously disrupt the economy. A tax on inventory, both farm and business, causes owners to make decisions based upon the timing of tax assessment. A business will attempt to lower its inventory of widgets prior to assessment time to lower its tax load. The smaller inventory means a customer has less variety to choose from. In the case of a feed lot, if cattle are sent to market and the lots emptied to lower the tax liability, a significant segment of Nebraska's productive capacity is being idled with the negative economic side effects that causes.

Second, taxes of any kind, be they sales, income, excise, or property must in the end come from business or personal income. That is an immutable economic fact. In earlier times property ownership was a reasonable and simple indicator of income. Those days are past. Farming is an example of a business that requires a high investment, but which consistently provides a low return. If a dairy

farmer loses money on each gallon of milk sold (as is currently happening) he or she still must pay the same amount of property tax that would be required if he or she were making money. To add his or her cows, milking equipment, and tractors to the rolls serves only to increase the gap between income and the tax burden.

Farm Depression

Part of the silliness of trying to return farm personal property to tax rolls lies in its timing. Farmers, as a group, did not fare well financially during the 1980's. In fact we saw a net farm income lower than we saw in the Thirties with the Great Depression. There are no predictions that this will turn around soon. The ten counties declining fastest are all rural. Communities based on poor farmers will not prosper. An attempt to shift a greater tax load on to farmers at this time smacks of Reaganomics, raise the tax on the poorer people so you can lower it for the wealthy.

Why do I say that putting all personal property back on the tax rolls most heavily impacts farmers? When people say "put it all back on" very few people mean all. All would mean household goods, inventory, intangibles, farm equipment, livestock, and business equipment. No one has proposed taxing household goods; too difficult, not much revenue, and not income producing. Taxing intangibles would lead to a flight of capital from Nebraska and severely handicap our economy. Consider for example, Warren Buffett, my favorite billionaire. For the privilege of remaining

a Nebraskan, he would be forced to pay a tax not only on his income, but also on his stocks and bank accounts. Is Omaha's skyline so breathtaking that he and the Omaha Royals would stay? Inventory seems an unlikely candidate to remain on the tax rolls. Almost everyone concedes that taxing inventory is a big handicap for a retail business, particularly in a state like Nebraska which has most of its population living within 50 miles of a state border. What's left in the category of "all"? Business equipment which has always been on (and which there is little political sentiment to remove) and farm personal property. "Putting it all back on" can quickly become a code word for "increase taxes on farmers."

Property Base, High Rates

Proponents of widening the property tax base say that as the base is broadened new parties are brought in and the tax becomes fairer. But farmers are not new parties to the property tax system. We already pay between 30 and 40 percent of the state's property taxes. The case can easily be made that farmers have already been unfairly and grievously injured by that system. To increase the load on an already overburdened victim of the property tax system does not increase tax equity and it is hypocritical to insist that it does.

It has been argued that in as farmers pay more personal property tax their real estate taxes decrease so that farmers are not hurt by the change. The facts are that if farm exemptions are removed, farmers will pay more than \$150 million in new taxes and their share of

the tax load will increase in both rural and urban districts.

Tax Shift

The Syracuse tax study, which favored a property tax on farm machinery argued that "In effect...eliminating the exemption for farm equipment redistributes the burden of the property tax from the owners of farm land to the owners of farm equipment — who are the sample people!" It makes sense but it ain't necessarily so. A growing amount of farmland is owned by investors and descendants of farmers and is farmed by renters. To shift the load from land owners to farm machinery owners would shift the tax load on to people less able to afford it.

Focus on the Real Problem

Tax policy is never simple. But it makes sense to start with Willie Sutton's admonition to go where the money is. Personal property, whether it be couches or cows, is not necessarily an indication of income. To pretend that it is or to say that it can be taxed without damaging the state's economy is, in the words of Nebraska Farmers Union President John Hansen, "Dumber than a bucket of hair."

In order to consider changes within the entire tax structure a constitutional amendment is needed so that the state legislature can classify and exempt property in a reasonable manner. Then we can focus on the real tax inequity Nebraskans face, an overreliance on a regressive and somewhat archaic property tax system to fund governmental services.

What If They Deregulate Banks?

by Stephen P. Pizzo

If banks are allowed back into the securities business, Congress might want to explore if something similar might not occur to a bank's securities trading subsidiary during the next Wall Street crash. Bank holding companies and their securities clients would be suddenly strapped for hundreds of millions of dollars to cover margin calls. They'd need the money fast, or they could lose everything. It won't take them long to figure out that a like-minded and similarly strapped bank holding company is just a phone call away. They could quickly arrange loans from each other's banks, to each other's clients just like thrift officers once did, and they'd worry about the regulators later. In the flash of a wire transfer and a programmed trade, hundreds of millions of dollars, maybe billions, could go right down another federally-insured rat hold.

In the vanguard of that advance has been Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan. Greenspan has been busily deregulating banks by regulatory fiat while an S&L shell-shocked Congress watched from its trenches. Greenspan has already allowed banks to underwrite stocks and junk bonds for the first time since the

Great Depression, believing that expanded banking powers are the only hope for American banks.

No one in Congress reminded the chairman when he testified for banking deregulation that he was one of the big boosters of thrift deregulation as well. Greenspan even worked as a consultant for Lincoln Savings and Loan chief Charles Keating Jr., writing two letters for Keating in 1985 and 1986. In his letters to regulators, Greenspan proclaimed Lincoln Savings a sound and safe operation, "no threat to the insurance fund," and wrote that thrift deregulation was right on course and should not be tampered with. To drive his point home, Greenspan listed 17 thrifts he said were doing well due almost entirely to their new investment powers. Today, 16 of those 17 thrifts are out of business, resulting in billions of dollars in losses to the taxpayers. Yet, even in light of this, few in Congress seem to have the inclination to challenge Mr. Greenspan's pronouncements on the benefits of banking reform.

Excerpted from "The Bush Banking Plan," Public Citizen, May/June 1991

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U.S. Press Puts Its Own Spin on Canadian Issues

by Jack Bradigan-Spula

Although western New York State is just across an imaginary line from the province of Ontario, inhabitants of this U.S. border area, even in large cities like Buffalo, never learn much through their newspapers about important Canadian issues. In local dailies, it is features of Ontario vacation spots that abound, or dramatic events such as last summer's struggles of Native people at Oka, Quebec, that attract attention. Coverage of Canadian politics, when it does appear, is customarily tilted towards the needs of U.S. elites, in part to avoid the threat of a good example. And now that the U.S. side of the border is being "developed" to fit into a symbiotic bi-national economy under the terms of "free trade," these elites and their media need to put the best face on—or simply efface—reports about political changes now under way in Ontario.

When Ontario voters swept the New Democratic Party (NDP) to power last year, the mainstream media, on both sides of the border, were confounded. How could constituents in this historically conservative province opt for a social-democratic, labor-oriented, environmentally-minded party in preference to the comfortable Liberals or Tories?

Ripe for Investment?

One question, however, was critical to U.S.

elites: What would be the effects on stateside border area businesses were the NDP to follow through on its promise to ignore the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA)? This pact, in effect since January 1989, was the darling of local governments and businesses in depressed areas like Buffalo. While Canada may have experienced the loss of some 150,000 jobs because of "free trade," resulting in protests by Canadian workers there, for "community leaders" on the U.S. side, the picture looked defect-free. In essence, Canada was now seen as ripe for "investment opportunities"; western New York could look forward to continuing replacement of its withering industrial sector by the retail trade that so appealed to Canadian consumers reacting to higher prices at home.

In Niagara Falls, New York, 15 miles north of Buffalo and just across the cataracts from Ontario, plans for a "Manufacturers' MegaMall" were taking form. If built, this mall, comprising nearly 1,400,000 square feet of retail space and 150 hotel rooms, would serve as the anchor for a stateside retail trade designed to draw people from urban areas within a wide radius. By the end of 1990, Time magazine puffed up the project in a story headlined, "The Price is Always Right" (Cathy Booth, December 17, 1990, p. 66): "Benderson Development Company...is building what it

touts as 'the largest manufacturers' mall in the universe' near Niagara Falls. The 200-store extravaganza, scheduled to open in 1992, features a fashion avenue of stores of the most exclusive designers and 'Epcot-like life-size video games.'"

In targeting such a project's potential customers, the economic compass clearly was pointed to the "Golden Horseshoe" of southern Ontario, the prosperous Canadian industrial zone extending from the Niagara region to Toronto. From here, developers hope to lure streams of Canadian shoppers across the four international bridges spanning the Niagara to seek out cheaper goods and gasoline. Two Niagara Falls, New York, shopping centers have already been converted to small-scale outlet shops, and the crush of Ontarians converging on them has heartened stateside boosters. Indeed most of the U.S. border area economy had been converted from heavy industry to service/retail, and thus a great deal was riding on business hopes to perpetuate and expand the status quo. In this sort of economic climate, "free trade" was considered a must; without it, Canadian shoppers might have no incentive to leave home.

In a February 5, 1990, U.S. News and World Report story, "The cheap side of the border: Booming Buffalo sees a Niagara or commerce," Michael Barone wrote that "since

1985 Buffalo has enjoyed one of the smartest recoveries in America's rust belt, and the Free Trade Agreement is helping to spur that renaissance." Listing advantages to Buffalo such as cheap real estate, low taxes (compared to Ontario), and electricity that "goes for a song," Barone echoed the hopes of his employers: "While Canadians continue to debate the merits of the FTA, for Buffalo residents the only uncertainty is how much extra lift the pact will provide."

Playing Down Social Programs

Early in September 1990, just a few days before the Ontario elections, readers of the Buffalo News, the city's only surviving daily, were served the meat and potatoes of financial advice. A September 3 Buffalo News editorial soothed its readers: "It is, then, an uneasy Labor Day. But as always, one not without reasons to celebrate hopes and confidence at work." (p. B2). Two days later, in the "Your Money" section (p. D1), the paper ran an Associated Press story by Mariann Caprino entitled "Canadian Bonds Offer the Highest Interest Rates." Wrote Caprino: "...Canada provides American investors with a certain comfort level — albeit psychological — because of its proximity and likeness to the

Continued on page 11

World-Herald a LaRouchian Front?

Continued from page 2

lowered themselves to going through the Boyle family trash.

I laughed somewhat nervously, thinking of some strange stuff they might find if they ever went through my trash.

You know what really got me, asked the Badger.

I give up, I said.

It was that last column, the one with the questions and answers. How dare they call that anything but an editorial? And they always act so holier-than-thou about keeping their news separate from their opinion.

Well, nobody believes that, I said.

I sure hope not, he said. This just pops my cork. First they say Owen was skilled at impromptu acting. Didn't you tell me that she never was in any high school plays?

That's what she said in court. But her drama teacher had recalled that she was good at impromptu acting, so after the World-Herald singled that out from everything else and made a headline out of it, they decided it really must have also been true.

Then they come up with all this speculative stuff about why certain prominent men were targeted. Did they ever prove anything like that in court?

No, I said. Except for Judge Carlson, it wasn't discussed. I guess they were mostly free lancing on that one. Maybe they think the great unwashed masses want their opinion on

the workings of Alisha Owen's mind. Come to think of it, I don't know anyone who would claim to know the workings of Alisha Owen's mind except maybe her mother. She never gave interviews to any journalists.

Besides, said Badger, there is something wrong with the story about Caradori, Casey and Rowe getting together to make plans for a movie. I have a friend who went and looked at the room where they were supposed to have met and it's not a private room. They serve continental breakfasts in there and other people on the floor come in and out all the time. If I were Caradori, I sure wouldn't be discussing something sensitive in a room like that. And so what if Casey or even Caradori **did** mention a movie. **Nobody** said that the movie thing came up before the kids made the tapes, so how could that have been a motive for their testimony? And doesn't it seem strange that a man as experienced as Caradori would be jumping onto this movie bandwagon so early in an investigation? I mean, the last thing he needed was publicity at that point before they had all their facts gathered. You know what I think? I think Casey tricked Caradori and Rowe both into meeting and that neither one knew till they got there what the meeting was for. Gosh, it sure is handy that Caradori is dead, isn't it?

I had to agree on that one.

Well, it seems to me the World-Herald has gone to phenomenal lengths to prove a pretty

outrageous point. I still think it sounds like something the LaRouchians would do.

Maybe so, I said, wanting to get off the phone and call Bob Dorr.

Later that afternoon I did call Bob Dorr. I asked him about his unattributed statement that Owen and Casey had spent time in bars and that Casey had named some of the same names of prominent men that Owen would later name in her interview with Caradori. He told me he had gotten it from the FBI interviews that were entered as evidence. That got my attention; I later called and got permission to view the evidence myself.*

Any other corroboration, I asked. He said no.

And you believe that the FBI documents were truthful? He did.

This is very interesting. The FBI was the last source I would have considered objective. They never believed Owen even in the beginning. In fact they never even interviewed the people she accused. Their role from the start was not to investigate, but to discredit Owen, starting with a shady partnership with Owen's attorney Pamela Vuchetich to get information out of her. Owen alleged in pre-trial hearings that Vuchetich had convinced her to make up a list of everyone she had ever been intimate with. The people on that list later turned up as witnesses against her in the trial.

As far as the FBI interviews themselves are concerned, Owen denies the authenticity of

much of them. They were not taped—she said she was not permitted to tape them—or signed, and she was not read her Miranda rights.

So the Badger was wrong about Dorr printing rumors. Then again, you could argue that printing FBI material in a case like this was pretty close to spreading rumors.

I began to ponder what makes reporters at the World-Herald do what they do. Many of them start out with the best intentions. Dorr himself is meticulous and thorough even now. Yet there he is explaining the unexplainable, why Alisha Owen sticks to her story in the face of overwhelming condemnation by the powers that be. His bosses give him lots of support including kudos on page 2 of a recent Sunday edition. His colleagues had a party for him last year to boost his spirits under fire. Would that be enough to keep a guy going?

I began to think of stories I had heard of pressure from the editors at the paper. Public and private humiliations and endless nitpicking. Threats of being taken off certain assignments. Stories rewritten. The word "brainwashing" kept popping into my mind.

I had to scold myself for thinking such a terrible thought. Brainwashing! That's what LaRouche's people do.

*The court reporter was on vacation and I was told I couldn't actually do it until next week. If my search turns up anything new I will report it next edition.

—FGM

Lulu: Scab Appliances and God as an Aardvark

Dear Lulu:



Dear Lulu:

My dear son Alfred is 17 and is just out of control. He swears at me and his dad all the time, never gets home on time and is running around with a terrible crowd. Just tonight the sheriff showed up with a warrant for his arrest as a runaround. Now in 4 months he'll be 18 and I'm told we won't be responsible for him any longer. Is that true? If he's emasculated will we have to pay his liquor bills any more? We just can't afford to buy all of his liquor. I'll be so glad when he's emasculated and we can stop worrying. Are we handling this right?

Love, A Mother in McCook

Dear Mother:

The word I think you're groping for is "emancipated" and it sounds like the poor kid hit that years ago. A little love and understanding sounds in order. Then emasculation might be appropriate.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I have read that the *Omaha World Herald* is upset with state senator Ernie Chambers because he said a woman lawyer with the Attorney General's office was "oversexed" and should buy a dehydrator so she could have an omelet, or an organ, or an orgasm, whatever that is, or something like that. Well, for goodness sake, what a silly statement for the senator to make. What possible use would a dehydrator be in making an omelet? And why should he care what this woman wants for breakfast? And how can you be "over" sexed? I'm certainly over sex, what with my Harold's problems, but

I'm not sure I was ever into it. I'm certainly confused. Are you?

Love, Just A Friend from Johnson.

Dear Friend:

Not as confused as all the liberals you hear screaming at the senator. Just when you thought you knew a guy. I doubt if they'll have the senator give them a shave with a straight edge for some time.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I'm a very religious person and was raised a devout and uptight Catholic but I read about something recently that just fries my nerves and makes me madder than a bonnet. New York Cardinal O'Connor gave a sermon on Father's Day and said that because Jesus was a man and always talked about his "Father," God is a man! Now I think this is awful and should be stopped immediately! We women should stick together and lynch this male pig before he has a chance to spread. Any man named after a bird shouldn't be allowed to give his opinions, let alone be seen in public in hats that look like they belong to old Methodist women. I'm just sick over this and my husband agrees with me, or at

least he better. What do you think?

Love, Aghast and Catholic in Agate.

Dear Aghast:

Much has been written and said over whether God is a man or woman. Most men act like you're an idiot for bringing it up—taking for granted God uses the Hombres' room at the mall. Most women would prefer to not talk about it, unless there's nothing else to talk about. The fact of the matter is that God is an aardvark. Yes, you can laugh and point silly sticks at me, but God is an aardvark. Now, think about it. Have you ever seen God? Have you ever seen an aardvark? Oh, yes, you might have seen something some weird zoo curator claimed was an aardvark on a visit to San Diego, but do you know that's an aardvark? When you've seen a cow, you know it, but an aardvark? And, if these pictures perverted animal people claim are aardvarks really are aardvarks, doesn't that just look like God would look, with all that protection against hurled insults from people who claim it's dead, and a perfect nose for sticking into other people's business? So there it is — God is an aardvark. Aren't you relieved? Now you can relax and leave the Cardinal to his flights. But the real clincher would be if God is

a female *ardvark*. But that'd be too good, wouldn't it.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I lost my vacuum cleaner and searched everywhere for it and finally gave up and went out and bought a new one. Well, before I even got it unpacked, I found the old one in the back of my husband's Dodge. He said he needed it for his janitor's job, which sounded a little funny to me because he's a breast doctor or at least that's what he told me when I met him at my first examination, so now I'm wondering what causes all these appliances to disappear and then suddenly show up.

Love, Wondering in Juanita.

Dear Juanita:

It's not well known, but all inanimate objects belong to the Non-Human Union, and they're often called out on strike when you do something they don't like. When this happens, every screwdriver, coffee pot and vacuum is required to disappear when needed. However, when a scab appliance shows up to take its place, the original reappears. Sounds strange, but then so do you.

Love, Lulu.

Except When They're Emptying the Treasury

Peace Is Their Profession...

As this issue of the Observer goes to press, President Bush is meeting with President Gorbachev to sign a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty—despite the best efforts of the Strategic Air Command and General John T. Chain.

In *Blank Check*, his fascinating book about the Pentagon's black budget, Pulitzer Prize-winning *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter Tim Weiner explained the extent of Chain's commitment to peace as a profession while the good General was trying to bamboozle Congress into spending \$80 billion or more on B-2 Stealth bombers:

"On July 21, 1989, the Air Force upped the ante. Welch told the Senate Armed Services Committee that if the Congress didn't buy all 132 bombers, he would walk away from the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks.... The SAC com-

mander John T. Chain, made the same threat. Chain had argued that the Air Force would "need a hell of a lot more than 132 B-2s" if the START talks succeeded in cutting back SAC's missile forces. And if the Air Force got fewer than 132 Stealths, General Chain told the senators, "I can tell you right here, up front, that I could not support a START agreement." The most powerful generals in the Air Force were saying they'd sacrifice arms control on the altar of the Stealth bomber. This sounded a little extreme. Senator Timothy Wirth, Democrat of Colorado, wasn't buying in. "That's a very high-stakes poker game for the Air Force to be playing," he told the generals.

General Chain's attempt at budgetary black-mail occurred three months after the B-2's prime contractor, the Northrop corporation,

was indicted for conspiracy and fraud for deliberately falsifying tests on components for nuclear cruise missiles and fighter jets.

Not until June 23, 1989—18 months after Congress passed a law forcing it to reveal the cost, seven months after the Stealth went on display, and ten years after the start of secret research and development—did the Air Force release the budget of the Stealth bomber.

The \$70 billion B-2 program that SAC and General Chain wanted in order to guarantee their support in the START agreement was more than the cost of purchasing every other weapon in the Pentagon's 1990 budget, more than the Defense Department wanted for the entire Star Wars program through the year 2000 and almost four times the cost of all federal programs to feed the hungry.

LETTERS

Please Support the Franklin Committee

Dear Sen. Will:

In your letter of July 10, 1990, you replied that the reputation of the Franklin Committee had been significantly tarnished by the OWH and that if I had any information, I should turn it over to law enforcement.

Douglas County Sheriff Richard Roth is the only law enforcement individual who has lent some objectivity to the Franklin investigation, and for this he has received the condemnation of the OWH. On five occasions (July 1989-Sept. 1990) I spoke to then trooper, now Sgt. Charles L. Phillips of the NSP. I gave him names, phone numbers and even an autopsy report. Even after I got two reluctant individuals from North Omaha to give him information, he still gave me the impression that his superiors were not encouraging an active investigation into the Franklin case.

I ask you to consider the following questions when you read the Franklin Committee's final report:

1) If the Franklin charges were just a well-orchestrated "hoax", where was Paul Bonacci supposed to fit in? I accidentally found out about him from one of our tax clients, and gave his name to Gary Caradori. There has never been any mention of correspondence or even phone conversations between Bonacci and Owen, Boner or Danny King. Yet Mr. Bonacci's recollection of events over the years 1983-1989 is very detailed and corroborates much of the original Owen-Boner-D.King story.

2) If the stories of satanic rituals are also part of the script, why would anyone leave it to two mentally disturbed young people (the girl at Richard Young and Paul Bonacci) to tell these stories and specifically to implicate Larry King, Jr.?

3) Why does the OWH not want the public to realize that the April 1990 indictment of Jarrett Webb by the Douglas County Grand Jury was part of the Franklin case? Webb was initially the center of the investigation as a foster parent and as Larry King's cousin. One of the girls in the Webb home did not fail the State Patrol's lie detector test. The trooper who administered the test said that in regard to the sexual abuse allegations, he believed

she was telling the truth. Yet Prosecutor Pat Tripp of Washington County refused to indict Webb. When the Franklin Grand Jury issued an indictment before issuing its full report, a Washington County judge ruled that prosecution of Jarrett Webb was barred by the statute of limitations. Of course the Attorney General's office decided not to appeal the judge's ruling. Who might Webb have implicated in his defense had he gone to trial?

4) Why has Fr. Val Peter, director of Boystown, said on KKAR and at least two Serra Club for Vocations talks that he is "praying for some adult to come forward and back up these kids"? Fr. Peter has also said he wanted to help the Webb sisters, but that they were initially too scared to talk to the [national] media.

5) Why has the OWH chosen to make it appear as if there were only three witnesses and two have recanted? (Even you used this to summarize the Franklin case in your letter.) In Carol Stitt's and Dennis Carlson's Foster Care Review report, there were 11 uncovered cases. Of these 11 cases, there were a number of children reporting some type of abuse or intimidation. Besides these foster care children, there is Paul Bonacci and to my understanding at least two other witnesses whose names were given by members of Concerned Parents to the late Gary Caradori.

6) There have been many other issues raised about the Owen case itself which are discussed fully in the current issue of the Nebraska Observer. There are still unanswered questions about the suicide of Charlie Rogers (Larry King's lover), the murder of Iowa school superintendent Harmon L. Tucker (a member of the Imperial Court) in Georgia, the accidental death of Blair foster care mother Kathleen Sorenson, and of course, the "accidental" death of investigator Gary Caradori.

Please find the courage to stand behind the members of the Franklin Committee. It may help you to know that there are several Benson business people and a number of St. Bernard's parishioners who do not believe the OWH. If you stand up for the right thing, you will not stand alone.

Sincerely,
Mary Lyons-Barrett

Blacks Must Solve Own Problems

Dear Editor:

Observer columnist Marion Cooper made the same liberal jingoist arguments regarding violence in the African American community. It is apparent African Americans have become too violent. Neither violence nor promiscuity is not cultivated in a Petri dish. Turn on any television show and what are we bombarded with daily? The trick is to learn how to turn the T.V. off. Death has become a common occurrence in the African American community.

African Americans are in straits. Yet, when we examine institutions, it is the same. Cooper doesn't progress to the final stages of his arguments. Yes, we should hold the media accountable, including The Nebraska Observer. Yet, in order for substantial change to emerge, it will require us to take ourselves seriously. Those who create negative conditions are not going to solve the problems. It will be those whose feet are pinched by the tight shoes. Need I say more.

A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon

Artist Honored Caradori

Dear Editor,

Your writing on the Caradori investigation is very courageous. When he died last July, it affected me in a very strange way for unknown reasons. To honor a courageous man who my gut instincts said was not a liar, I sent a piece of art work to the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney, "Passion Emerging From Brown Void."

I wrapped it carefully, enclosing it with silk flowers in memorium and an engraved plate stating the name of the work, my name and that the art work was a gift in memory of Gary Caradori and his son A.J. (who had died in a plane crash July 1990 over Ashton, Ill.)...It is there (now) and in some small way it makes me feel better that it is.

Sincerely,
Mary Werthman

Do You Dread the Thought of Writing Your Résumé?

Is it the kind of task that gives you an anxiety attack? Are you not getting the responses you should from your current résumé?

Relax. Creating a résumé better than those of your rivals isn't particularly difficult.

All you need is impeccable grammar, a persuasive and professional writing style, access to a word processor and laser printer, enough knowledge about design and typography to create "eye appeal", the ability to neutralize negatives, and a knack for spot-

lighting your particular combination of qualities, skills and experience.

You do have all these things don't you?

If not, you should consider professional, experienced assistance.

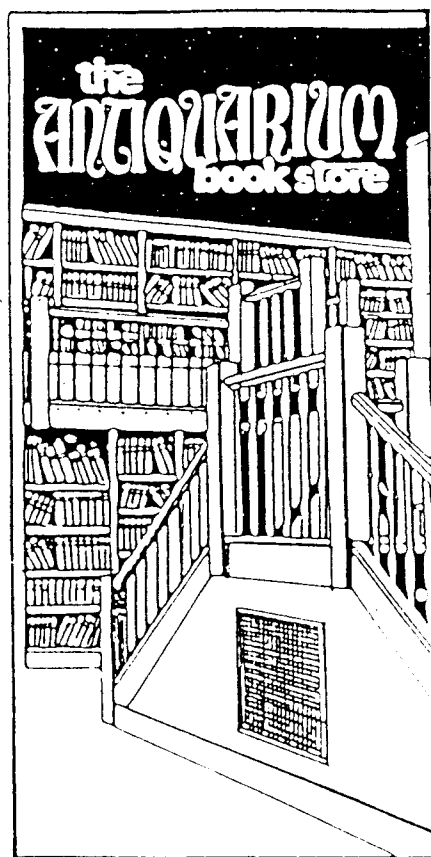
But from whom?

On the one hand, you probably don't want a copy center résumé. Or one from a "nationwide" chain whose cookie-cutter work any employment recruiter can spot a mile away.

On the other hand, you may not need an expensive "career counseling consultant" to tell you things about yourself that you probably already know.

If all you need is an expertly written, typeset résumé or cover letter, call 345-5147. Talk to us about your goals and let us quote you a price no higher than that of a new pair of shoes or a perm.

After all, you can't make a good impression in an interview unless you *get* an interview.



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Stay of Execution Ends August 5

McGinn to Rule on Board of Pardons Procedure

*by DeCourcy Squire**DeCourcy Squire is a member of Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty.*

On June 29, the Nebraska Board of Pardons voted 2-1 to deny a request of clemency for Harold Otey. Now a suit is being brought, challenging whether the hearing granted to Harold Otey by the Nebraska Board of Pardons was fair and impartial.

Had the Attorney General (who along with the Secretary of State and the Governor sat on the Board of Pardons) prejudged the question of whether Harold Otey's sentence should be commuted from death to life? Had the Attorney General worked to change the normal procedures of the Board of Pardons in a way that was prejudicial to Harold Otey? Was Otey's case treated differently from other cases that have come before the Board? Did the Attorney General act as an impartial fact finder and decision maker or was he playing a conflicting role as prosecutor? These were

some of the key questions raised on July 24 before Lancaster County District Court Judge Bernard McGinn.

Lincoln attorneys James Mowbray and Dorothy Walker represented Death Row inmate Harold Otey in the suit which moved his case away from imminent execution and back, at least temporarily, into the courts. During the day-long hearing, they called six witnesses, among them Secretary of State Allen Beermann, Vice-Chair of the Board of Parole Donald McCall, and Vic Covalt, Otey's attorney at the commutation hearing. They attempted to submit over 70 exhibits to prove their contention that Otey's rights to due process and equal protection had been violated.

Attorneys Sharon Lindgren and Kirk Brown of the Attorney General's office spent much of the day objecting to each piece of evidence and every line of questioning. Their position was that Harold Otey had not been entitled to a fair and impartial hearing and that the

Lancaster County District Court had no jurisdiction to decide the issue.

Among the reams of exhibits accepted as evidence over their objections were boxes of records of past cases heard by the Board of Pardons—death cases going back to 1920 and all first degree murder cases heard from 1969 to the present. There was a copy of the practices and procedures normally used in clemency hearings for first degree murder cases; and a transcript of the special Board meeting held on June 6, 1991, during which the new procedures to be followed in Harold Otey's case were decided.

The new procedures included hastening the process; ordinarily the decision whether or not to hold a hearing would have been discussed at the Board's meeting on June 28 and the hearing itself would have been at the next quarterly meeting of the Board. The new procedures did not allow the Board of Parole to make a recommendation in the case, even though the Parole Board habitually does make

such recommendations. Otey's attorneys contend that the Nebraska Constitution does not allow the Board of Pardons to so direct the Parole Board. Most drastic among the new procedures was allowing members of the Attorney General's office to usurp the place of the Parole Board by coming before the Board to present a case opposing commutation.

Judge McGinn has taken the case under advisement. He is expected to rule before August 5, which is also when a federal stay from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled to end.

Convict's Intervention Saved Lives But Virginia Still Carried Out Execution

Cited in Until You Are Dead by Frederick Drimmer, reviewed by Joe Wakelee-Lynch in the Texas Observer

Last October the state of Virginia was preparing to execute Wilbert Lee Evans for shooting a sheriff in Alexandria, Va. Evans, a 44-year old black man, had killed Deputy William G. Truesdale while attempting to escape from an Alexandria jail in 1981. In the Washington, D.C., area and across Virginia, Evans' impending death seized the public's attention.

Evans' execution would hardly have commanded notice of not for remarkable events

that took place in 1984, while he was jailed in Virginia's Mecklenburg Corrections Facility. Two months after Evans received his sentence for the killing, six prisoners attempted to escape from the facility. They took more than a dozen hostages, threatening to kill them, and one nurse had been stripped and tied to a bed when Evans intervened.

Evans persuaded the six prisoners that harming the hostages would ruin their chance to negotiate with the authorities. The prisoners relented. According to the Washington Post, they roughed up the captured guards, taking their clothes and locking them in a

closet. Later the hostages said that Evans' actions probably saved their lives.

In Washington, D.C., media coverage of Evans' appeals for a reduction of his sentence resembled a vigil. The Post ran several articles, some on consecutive days, while TV news announcers filed what seemed like hourly updates of the convoluted appeal process.

Evans' situation was truly gripping. Hostages had testified in affidavits that Evans' action was life-saving. His attorneys argued that his actions proved wrong the jury that sentenced him to death because he was a threat to society.

For opponents of capital punishment, Evans' ordeal offered rare hope. To see, at long last, a death-row inmate step out from oblivion and take on a human face was heartening. Fueling the hope for a reprieve was the fact that if ever there was a reason to reconsider a death sentence, this appeared to be it. Evans' act saved prison guards and nurses. To carry out the sentence against him would tell inmates that there was no reason to avoid harming prison officials in escapes or revolts. And how would guards and officials themselves feel, after that message was delivered in the form of Evans' execution?

In the end, Evans' plea was rejected. The U.S. Supreme Court turned down his last appeal at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 17, 1990. Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, the first black governor of Virginia, took no action to commute Evans' sentence. Evans was electrocuted in Richmond and pronounced dead at 11:09 p.m. that evening.

**"Assert your right to know;
support the alternative press."**

—Maggie Kuhn, Gray Panthers

The 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign allegedly struck a deal with Iran to keep the U.S. hostages until after the 1980 presidential campaign, thus ensuring Carter's loss. In These Times, which bills itself as the "pre-eminent strategic magazine of the left," first reported this story in 1987. The New York Times didn't report on it until April, 1991.

Job Openings

Long Hours For Low Pay!

Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty has an opening for a part-time paid staff person. Must be dedicated to abolishing the death penalty. Interest in the legislative process, the legal system, and criminal justice helpful. Office skills, computer knowledge, and ability to work with diverse groups of people a plus. Make a difference. Call 1-474-6575 (Lincoln) or write NADP, Box 81455, Lincoln, NE 68501 for more information.

Help Beginning Farmers

The Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Neb. has a job opening in its Land Link Realty service for a farm manager, to assist beginning farmers. The position requires a practical knowledge of farming and livestock production. An understanding of finance and real estate law would be helpful. The applicant must have or be willing to obtain a Nebraska Real Estate Broker's license after employment. Costs incurred in obtaining the license will be paid by the Center.

The starting salary will be from \$20,000 to \$21,000 depending on experience. The Center has an excellent fringe benefit package including three weeks of vacation, full health insurance (including life), and a pension plan.

To apply send a letter and resume to Nancy Thompson, Center for Rural Affairs, Box 406, Walthill, NE 68067. If there are questions, call (402) 846-5428.

Medical Waste Incinerator Perfectly Safe or Poison For Profit?

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series dealing with the proposed infectious waste incinerator at Homer, Neb. by Bill Zahren

Homer, Neb. —Homer residents looking for opinions on whether to let a medical waste incinerator come into their backyards will find a chorus of experts — with many of them singing different tunes.

Citizens of Homer, population 560, are being asked to decide at a Sept. 17 referendum whether to allow construction of a \$3.7 million, 60-ton-per-day infectious waste incinerator next to their town.

Infectious waste is generally defined as hospital waste that has been in contact with human blood or other body fluids.

The incinerator is being proposed by Safeway Environmental Technologies, a new company formed by three Montana men.

Opinions from national experts on the issue of medical waste incineration range from "perfectly safe" to "poison for profit."

Among those who suggest medical waste incinerators aren't a danger if operated properly are Howard H. Fawcett, a chemical engineer and president of Fawcett Consultations in Wheaton, Md. and Carol Rubley of the Environmental Resources Management Group in Exton, Pa.

Fred Munson, solid waste expert for the environmental group Greenpeace, said medical waste incinerators are bad news no matter how well they are operated.

Fawcett, who also said he is president of the health and safety division of the American Institute of Chemistry, said Homer residents should ask some key questions before allowing the incinerator.

"I would tell them to ask about temperatures," said Fawcett, who's spent 50 years studying such waste management problems. Burning at temperatures over 1,000 degrees Celsius (1,832 degrees Fahrenheit) for several hours effectively renders infectious waste harmless, he said.

Rubley added that the incinerator operators must have the best equipment and be well trained on how to use it in order to operate safely.

Fawcett, who lives in the area of the incinerator at the National Institute for Health at Bethesda, Md., said, "My first reaction is that I'd be in favor of it, all other things being equal; but they need supervision. When an entity comes in, often there is supervision at the beginning but that often declines as the expenses increase."

Safeway has offered to allow a board of local citizens to monitor the plant and shut it down if it's not being operated as the company promised. Fawcett called such a step essential to keeping the plant safe.

"Some of these people are very careless once they get set up and going," Fawcett warned. "Long-term monitoring is not very attractive for the people who live in the area because eventually they are going to forget about it."

Forgetting about it could lead to disaster, Fawcett said.

Munson said medical waste incinerators are disasters no matter how well they are run.

"We are adamantly opposed to medical waste incineration, especially the regionalized large-scale incineration complexes that are popping up around the U.S.," said Munson, who works in the New York Greenpeace office.

Among the dangers from incineration is the creation of dioxin and heavy metal residue, both of which are hazardous, Munson said.

Munson said included in infectious wastes are plastics made of polyvinyl chloride. Incinerating them actually creates dioxin that wouldn't have been released if the plastics were landfilled.

Heavy metals that are environmental threats such as cadmium, mercury and lead are also in the waste being incinerated, Munson said. The metals cannot be destroyed by the process so they end up in the ash which ends up in the landfill, he said.

Greenpeace said instead of burning infectious waste, hospitals should carefully sort their infectious waste, use steam to sterilize it, chop it into small chunks and take it to landfills.

Non-infectious waste should be decreased as much as possible by reducing, reusing and recycling, Munson said.

All three agreed that the issue of waste incineration usually stirs up a lot of controversy wherever it goes.

"Of course there is controversy," said Fawcett. "The NIMBY—Not In My Back Yard — routine shows up every place. But incinerators are the best alternative I know to landfills, particularly for hospital and infectious waste."

Opponents' claims of health risks usually are designed to play on emotions and are not backed by scientific evidence, Rubley said.

Munson claims incinerator companies have profit, not the health of their host community, as their bottom line.

"I think that looking at the reasonings they give (it is) bribery and economic blackmail," he said. "It's a very common siting strategy used around the nation. They say to a community, 'Hi, we'll give you all this money and some jobs and in return create some poison here.' It's poison for profit and it's a very insidious game."

Reprinted with permission from the Sioux City Journal

Nebraskans Should Help Shape State Waste Plan

by Gary Voogt

The Nebraska State Legislature would like you to tell it what to do with the 1,000 pounds of garbage you generate each year — reduce, reuse, recycle, incinerate or bury. This summer Nebraskans have a unique opportunity to participate in the formulation of a sensible waste management plan that will carry the state into the 21st Century.

Such a plan won't be easy, according to John Wright, Vice President of SCS Engineers, a consulting firm hired by the state to research possible solutions to the growing solid waste problem. What works for the eastern metropolitan areas might not work for rural areas. For example, Wright said, an increase in landfill usage fees results in more garbage being dumped along rural roads.

"We all need to take part [in a solution] and have a stake in it", Wright said. Wright's comments were made at a town hall meeting in Omaha that was sponsored by the State Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee sponsored six meetings across the state last May and has six more scheduled for August.

The town hall meetings are a way for Nebraskans to take part in the waste management planning process, according to State Senator Spencer Morrissey, Chair of the Advisory Committee. The May meetings were held in Grand Island, Scottsbluff, North Platte, Norfolk, Beatrice and Omaha. The upcoming meetings are scheduled for August 13 in Ord, August 14 in Alliance, August 15 in Lexington, August 20 in South Sioux City, August 21 in Hastings and August 22 in Lincoln. Times and locations have yet to be announced.

"The way we live in Nebraska today creates about 4.5 pounds of solid waste every day for every man, woman and child," according to information published by the Advisory Committee. Senator Morrissey says a waste management plan is necessary to help protect the state's environment and its people.

"Investing in solid waste management is one of our best shots at protecting the state's groundwater," Senator Morrissey said. "Only our people are a greater resource than our water."

There are five basic solutions being examined by the Advisory Committee and SCS Engineers: 1) Volume reduction at the source; 2) Recycling, reusing and composting where possible; 3) Incineration with energy resource recovery; 4) Incineration for volume reduction; and 5) Land disposal. These areas were established by LB 163, the bill passed in 1990 that set the planning process into motion.

Nebraskans will spend \$135.3 million per year by 1996 to landfill garbage, according to Wright. Reduction at the source and recycling could save millions of dollars, protect the environment and improve the economy, Wright said. However, Wright cautions, the success of recycling depends on citizen participation

and the development of markets for recyclables.

Wright said he would like to see reduction and recycling work but he wouldn't rule out waste-to-energy incineration as a possible solution. SCS Engineers are doing the economic and technical analyses of the possible solutions. Results of the firm's analyses are anticipated to be released during a third round of town hall meetings later in the fall, according to Wright.

Based on an informal poll conducted in conjunction with the first round of town hall meetings, Nebraskans rate "recycle, compost and reuse items that come into our communities" first in importance for a complete solid waste management plan. Senator Morrissey just recently released the results of the unscientific poll.

People who participated in the poll rated the importance of six possible solid waste solutions. The other solutions in order of importance are: reduce the amount of waste-producing things that come into our communities; encourage groups of communities to create joint landfills; burn waste for fuel, where possible and safe for the air; reduce the amount of trash by burning before burying; and create individual community landfills.

The 92nd Legislature established the State Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee in 1990 through LB 163. This committee is responsible for researching possible solutions to the current solid waste crisis, based on guidelines established by LB 163. The committee hired SCS Engineers of Kansas City to do the technical research, and SCS Engineers hired Economic Research Associates of Lincoln to handle public relations.

To voice your opinion on the solid waste issue, attend one of the town hall meetings or send your comments to Senator Morrissey at Room 1124, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.



First You Have to Get Their Attention

Prevention-Minded EPA Should Reduce Lead, Oppose Incinerators

by Jeremy Frahm

The author is a member of Ecology Now

"...At the heart of what we are attempting to do in all our environmental areas,... is prevent pollution from occurring in the first place.

I would also encourage people to try to deal with the facts and not perceptions in the environmental areas because I feel that the facts are that we can improve our environment."

—Morris Kay, regional administrator for region 7, at the quarterly meeting of the Environmental Protection Agency in Omaha at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center July 18.

The entire meeting glowed with the positive note that Morris Kay put forth in the above quote. The meeting started with a brief

introduction to the new and improved Clean Air Act. Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA is calling for the removal of 56,000,000,000 pounds of pollutants from the air resulting in a 75% reduction of air toxics. This sounds really positive to me, but I can't help wondering if it isn't all just hot air being blown out of the bureaucratic machine we know as the EPA. Literally 200 regulations need to be enforced under the new Clean Air Act. During the meeting, it was made clear that the EPA needs our participation in the development and implementation of these regulations—that's right they want to hear from you. More importantly, citizens must be willing to witness environmental impact in areas of suspicion. If the EPA isn't seeing the blatant disregard of regulations by local business, then we must show them. If the EPA isn't hearing us, then we will just have to start shouting. Their

toll free number is 1-800-223-0425.

Nebraska's air quality report showed that we are under attainment (compliance) for all air quality standards except the lead standard. In fact, according to the Nebraska Air Quality Report (figure 7), Omaha is consistently over the lead standard. The section devoted to lead in the report attributes the significant lead levels in Omaha to "a lead refining operation." With all the modern pollution controls available, Omaha should not be having problems meeting the lead standard. The real question, though, is why is the EPA, committed as it is to prevention according to the promises of Mr. Kay, allowing this to happen?

Another question for the prevention minded EPA: why hasn't it taken a clear stand against incinerators? At least one citizens' group took the opportunity of the July 18 meeting to tell

the EPA what their members thought of incinerators. During the question and answer period following the presentation on the Clean Air Act, Kevin Abelein of the no-name group read noname's Policy Statement on Incineration in Nebraska and gave a copy to the Morris Kay. The noname group was formed last March by concerned citizens opposed to the "blue bag" effort who want Omaha to have a comprehensive solid waste program. The Policy Statement on Incineration in Nebraska read as follows:

The no-name group supports a moratorium on all incineration within the state of Nebraska until such time as strong, adequate regulations are in place and vigorously enforced. We do not support incineration because: it is inefficient, it causes atmospheric degradation, it creates hazardous waste in the form of bottom and fly ash, it discourages reduction, recycling and composting of vegetative matter, and at present state regulations are inadequate and vague. We do support the concepts of reduction of the waste stream, recycling and reuse of materials and composting of vegetative matter. The no-name group supports the creation of legislation which mandates reduction, recycling and reuse. Until the citizenry of the state is certain that Nebraska is not and will not be serving as the dumping ground for the rest of the United States the no-name group will energetically pursue strong regulations of the waste stream.

1991 Amendments to Clean Air Act

The following listing by Title best summarizes the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 as presented at the quarterly meeting.

Reduction of Polluting Gases

Under Title 1 (Nonattainment), provisions have been made to reduce levels of ozone, Carbon monoxide, Nitrogen Oxides and volatile organic compounds in areas which are not under attainment (an attainment area is an area considered to have air quality as good as or better than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards as defined in the Clean Air Act). In areas of nonattainment, Reasonably Available Control Technology (an emission limitation on existing sources in non-attainment areas) will be used under the Control Techniques Guidelines, issued by EPA, to select the best technology to limit emissions. Parts of the country that are under nonattainment for Carbon monoxide have fuel requirements for automobiles. Subject to Carbon monoxide levels, fuel must contain certain percentages of oxygenated fuel which will create more demand for ethanol from Nebraska farms.

Auto and Fuel Standards

Under Title 2 (Mobile Sources), tailpipe standards will be tightened as well as new standards on Diesel fuels, non-road engines and emissions of benzene and formaldehyde. New standards on the sale of clean fuel cars are also in place (150,000 clean fuel cars are required to be sold in California in 1996) as well as additional guidelines for the use of oxygenated fuels.

Hazardous and Toxic Pollutants

Under Title 3 (Air Toxics), the EPA is using a list of 189 hazardous air pollutants that must be regulated at major point sources by the Maximum Achievable Control Technology

(emission standards based on the best demonstrated control technology and practices in the regulated industry). Additional residual risk standards (to protect against health and environmental risks resulting from pollutants remaining after maximum achievable control technology standards are established) will be defined if more than one source of hazardous air pollutants exceeds a maximum individual risk of cancer of 1 in 1 million. The EPA is also required to place additional standards to prevent accidental releases of toxic chemicals.

Acid Rain

Under Title 4 (Acid Rain), Sulfur dioxides are to be reduced by 10 million tons and Nitrogen oxides by 2 million tons from 1980 levels. Incentive allowances have been made for energy conservation and renewable energy. The EPA has also established incentives for the use of clean coal technologies.

Permits and Incentives

Under Title 5 (Operating Permits), every major source of pollutants regulated under the act must have an operating permit. The facility responsible for these emissions will be charged \$25 a ton to cover the costs of the permitting program. The \$25 per ton fee will also be an incentive for business to reduce emissions without being told to do so.

Ozone Protection

Under Title 6 (Stratospheric Ozone and Global Climate Protection), the EPA requires maximum recycling and safe disposal of CFC refrigerants within 2 years. The EPA also requires the phase-out of some nonessential ozone depleting products and mandatory warning labels on others. The EPA will publish a list of safe and unsafe uses of substitutes for ozone depleting substances to aid in the use of

safe alternatives.

Enforcement

Under Title 7 (Enforcement), the EPA has established "a broad array of new enforcement authorities, from "traffic tickets" to criminal felonies, are provided to better match the penalty to the severity of the violation."

Special Pollution Sources

Under Title 8 (Miscellaneous Provisions), sources of air pollution from the Outer Continental Shelf, Mexico and international border areas will be monitored. The EPA will also study sources and regions of visibility impairment and take action to remedy negative impacts.

Research

Under Title 9 (Clean Air Research), the EPA will maintain a national monitoring network to study air emissions, deposition, air quality, surface water quality, forest conditions and visibility while taking into account the effects upon public health and the ecosystem. Research will be done to improve pollution prevention (emission controls) and response technology for accidental releases. The EPA is launching a continuation of research by an intra-agency task force to further its acid precipitation (acid rain) research program. Clean alternative fuels will be sought after the EPA has "determined the risks and benefits to human health and the environment relative to those from gasoline."

Dislocated Workers

Under Title 10 (Clean Air Employment Transition Assistance), assistance for dislocated workers (mainly sulfur coal miners) who are in need of a career change is available though limited.



How to Tell TV Advertisers You're Not Buying It

by Marion Cooper

Marion Cooper (not his real name) works in a sensitive position at a local corporation which does not grease the career paths of employees who criticize the status quo in their spare time and who have expensive, powerful computer equipment at their disposal at work.

Television commercials come in genres. There is the "Morning in America" genre. Usually this involves a dew covered corn field, puppy dogs, the voice of your grandfather and, if at all possible, multiple shots of children. The style is used to sell almost everything from cars to coffee to airlines and it cost big bucks if done correctly.

And, there's the "Babes and Beer" genre. This species can be seen repeatedly during sports coverage and usually has loud rock'n'roll music accented by models, most often females, with bodies that do not and never will occur naturally. On the whole, these are offensive to the senses, the sexuality, and the product [American brew] itself akin to creek water running near a feed lot.

During the evening news, you can catch the "Car Sales" commercial. A distinctive aberration which stands out due to its incredibly poor production value [if done locally] and its general irrelevance [if done by Detroit]. The local car spots usually exhibit the same combination of megalomania and penis envy [male version] that cause a high rate of red sports car purchases.

Numerous other types of commercials regularly invade your home. There are those spawned by the soft drink wars replete with so many celebrities that it is nearly impossible to remember who endorses what. Bank commercials like to feature buildings, marble and the smiling face of a customer or two they have helped realize a dream at a healthy interest rate. Lately some banks have attempted to use humor. Given the condition of their industry who can blame them.

There is one particular genre, though less prevalent of late, that has enjoyed a popularity which deserves punishing. The "Rally Around The Flag" commercial is habitually linked to our misbehavior in the Middle East and drips in the patriotism that has become the rule for how a frighteningly large number of citizens think about the country. Aside from its obvious shallowness, the strategy from a marketing stance is dangerous. Commonly called "borrowed interest" it is a scheme that attempts to use the popularity and acceptance of a current event to sell you a product.

Make no mistake about it, that is the objective: selling product. Nobody spends the money necessary for a contemporary thirty second message unless they expect revenue return. Some instances of borrowed interest are more tolerable to me than others because they advocate causes that have some moral, ethical foundation beyond narrow national interest. For instance, during the negotiations between

the US and USSR to reduce short and medium range missile in Europe, Range Rover [the folks who make very expensive four wheel drive vehicles] ran a print ad with the headline: "Good luck To Presidents Reagan And Gorbachev At The Summit, Because Even A Range Rover Cannot Survive A Nuclear War."

The efforts of late to capitalize off the Persian Gulf War are not nearly so tasteful. Some advertisers have avoided the subject altogether. Kudos to them and their agencies for choosing the higher, safer ground. For those without such restraint: Remember we — your over-consuming customers — are watching. That is the message that must be sent to those companies who have draped their products in the flag.

It may seem that it is a futile battle to fight

but, on the contrary, this is an area where a single letter can make the morning coffee of the vice presidents in marketing and public relations have all the appeal of battery acid. Corporations hate to be called on the carpet by the buying public and while it may take several letters to get visible action, your correspondence can cause more than one senior management member earning 100 times the amount of his/her assembly line worker to jump very, very high.

Still not convinced?

Remember the bunny that the Energizer Battery people paraded through commercials for fictitious products. Well, the Ford Motor Company thought they might use the bunny in a most unusually way by having it wander into their spot where it could be run over by one of

their products. Humor. Parody. Not funny said the Bunny Lovers of America. In fact, so many of them said it that Ford discontinued the commercial.

I liked the Ford ad. The bunny deserved it. The 100,000 plus people run over by US made artillery, smart bombs, and assorted other horrors deserve more than a bunch of flag waving capitalists cheering the war that brought their demise for commerce's sake. War is a court of last resort at best. Nothing coming from it should be cheered or used for material gain. Imagine Abraham Lincoln using the victory over the South to sell beer in northern markets. Of course, there were leaders in the land back then.

Write. Tell them you're not buying it. Then don't.

118 Liquor and Cigarette Ads in 10 Blocks

Drug-Pushing Inner City Billboards

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON — Among drug pushers in the neighborhood of his St. Sabina's church in Chicago, Father Michael Pfleger noticed three that stayed all day and never moved. They were billboards.

One proclaimed the joys of Smirnoff vodka, another Newport cigarettes and the third Miller Lite beer. In July 1990, the priest, who has served the nearly all-black St. Sabina parish since 1975, took action by rolling red paint over the billboards or, what he called, "these 24-hour pushers."

The priest was taken to court on three charges of property destruction. In a trial earlier this month, Cook County state's attorneys did some painting of their own: broad-brush strokes of the priest as a rebel criminal who thought he was above the law. The 12 member jury unpersuaded, preferred the artwork of Rev. Pfleger, acquitting him after less than two hours' deliberation.

Parishioners of St. Sabina's are blessed, if not by God than by divine justice, to have a pastor willing to express some holy wrath against the booze and butt peddlers. Alcohol and cigarette companies are predators who hawk their drug den products in inner city neighborhoods disproportionately to other neighborhoods. News reports of the trial said that the priest counted 118 alcohol and cigarette billboards in a ten block area around the church. In a similar-sized area around a church in a nearby white neighborhood, only three billboards were up.

With many in his flock already suffering from heroin and crack abuse, Rev. Pfleger saw no reason they should be subjected to the come-ons of what are called the "gateway drugs" of alcohol and nicotine. As much as anyone in the neighborhood, he had seen lives, particularly children's, ruined by drug addiction. Why shouldn't he have the right to fight back?

The conventional answer is that he does have the right but not to the point of destroying property. This is where the necessity defense comes in. Testimony at the trial revealed that the priest had tried the ordinary rappings to get the attention of the billboard sellers. He told them of his anger, held protest marches, collected names on petitions, went to zoning boards to argue for limiting billboards, worked with local politicians for legislative action and went to Washington to testify at hearings on advertising and drug abuse.

For nearly two years, Rev. Pfleger worked the gears of good citizenship. The machinery of reform didn't move. Painted into a corner, he painted his way out.

The necessity defense isn't quite the anarchistic mayhem that prosecutors and judges say it is. It holds that in some circumstances a law can be broken if it means a greater injury can be prevented. It's illegal, for example, to ram your car into another vehicle on the roadway. What if you are near a crowded playground at the bottom of a hill and see a

driverless car rolling toward it, after apparent brake failure? Or if you see a fire next door and need to batter the door to rescue someone inside? Laws against property damage don't hold in those cases, nor did they when Rev. Pfleger put the health of his flock at a higher value than the profits of the billboard advertisers. At the trial, prosecutors also raised the First Amendment issue: Advertisers of legal products have a right to free speech. Not always in every place. Does an alcohol or cigarette company have automatic access to placing ads in the hallways of public schools?

They don't. Decisions have been made that some places are off limits to advertisers. St. Sabina's happened to have a priest with the pluck and imagination to take a stand. Father Pfleger is part of a national citizens protest movement against the raw excesses of companies that hawk their lies alcohol and nicotine are good for you — minority kids in poor neighborhoods. At St. Sabina's, never was painting the town red more apt.

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A few copies of the last Nebraska Observer are still available for \$2.50. Main articles were about the Alisha Owen trial and an interview of Paul Bonacci. Write P.O. Box 31383, Omaha, 68131

Ohio, Next on List, Not Happy About It

Michigan Booted Out of Its Nuke Compact

ROMULUS, Mich.—The unhappy chore of providing a disposal site for low-level radioactive waste was yanked away from Michigan on Wednesday, July 24, 1991. The vote which kicked Michigan out of the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission was 5-2, the two-thirds required for such action. Voting no were Michigan and Ohio. Other states in the seven-state compact were fed up with Michigan's slowness in developing a dump as it was chosen to do in 1987.

While many rejoiced at Michigan's expulsion, many new problems are expected for Michigan and a group of Midwest states, including Iowa.

"I could see us going another six or eight years, just bobbing around on this," said William Lukens, executive director of the Michigan Coalition of Radioactive Material Users Inc. It represents power plants, hospitals and universities that produce the waste. The waste includes contaminated filter sludge, protective clothing, and laboratory equipment.

He noted that while fear and opposition greeted efforts to find a disposal site in Michigan, producers of the waste are now storing it at 51 sites around the state.

"My greatest fear is it will be ignored, and with 51 systems, somebody will screw up," Lukens said.

No fight expected

Michigan was not expected to fight its expulsion from the Midwest compact. Gov. John Engler opposes a dump and wants changes

in the federal law, which might require 15 dumps nationwide. Experts say only two or three might be needed.

Michigan leads the Midwest compact in production of waste. The other members are Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Michigan was picked to provide the first dump for the compact for 20 years, with the other six states taking turns later. The Legislature then passed tough standards designed to protect the environment.

The standards made it virtually impossible to find a site, and the Michigan Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority rejected the first three finalist sites chosen.

As the Michigan effort bogged down, other Midwest states accused it of stalling and the state and the Midwest group fought over funds for the site search.

"This compact has continuously been antagonistic towards its host state," said Dennis Schornack, aide to Engler and the new Michigan representative to the Midwest compact. "There's been a total ignoring of our sovereignty as a state."

The other side

But the Midwest group had another side. "No state is enthusiastic about taking on the responsibility," said Gregg Larson, executive director of the Midwest commission. "The state (Michigan) adopted siting criteria that made it virtually impossible to find a site. And the executive branch in Michigan has never been very supportive.

"The six other states are committed to going forward. Nobody wants to do this (eject Michigan). It's nothing that you can accuse them of doing in their own self-interest. We know there's no future in Michigan."

"I think the die is cast," Schornack said. "We may have triggered something here to cause Congress to rethink this policy."

Several choices

Following Michigan's booting, experts say, it has several choices:

Find a spot to build a dump to handle its waste. But there is no guarantee it legally can reject waste from other states.

Join another compact or form a new compact with other states.

Contract with another state or compact to take Michigan's waste.

Keep storing waste at temporary facilities until a long-term solution is found.

But experts warn that Michigan probably will have to face the waste problem indefinitely instead of just the first 20 years. And, in a 6-0 vote, the remaining members authorized a suit against Michigan, aimed at recouping about \$1.7 million that utilities in those states had sent to Michigan to fund its search for a dump.

Said Engler: "Even that, it seems to me, is preferable to the compact situation where we would end up not only disposing of our waste, but that of every other state in the Midwest compact. We will endeavor to solve the problem, but to do so with the recognition that our main objective is not to store any low-level

radioactive waste in the state of Michigan."

Not happy

Waste producers were not happy with the ouster of Michigan.

"It probably will raise more questions than it answers," said Ralph Lieto, radiation safety officer for Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. "From a generator's standpoint, this is real undesirable.

"It's politics and personalities. I don't know what the solution is. I'm very disillusioned about what has occurred in the past few months."

Meanwhile, Ohio is scheduled to take Michigan's spot as host state for the Midwest compact. It was chosen as the No. 2 state in 1987, based on waste production. On a 5-1 vote with Ohio in opposition, the shrunken compact voted to reaffirm Ohio's status as host state. Minnesota now replaces Ohio as next in line.

No studies

Dawson said no geological studies have been done in Ohio to see if a suitable dump site can be found, no legislation has passed, and there are no plans on how to proceed if Michigan is kicked out.

"There's been no reason for Ohio to look at this because Michigan was supposed to provide a facility," he said. "I can't figure out what Michigan's political leadership is thinking in this case."

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U.S. Press and Canadian Issues

Continued from page 4

United States. Plus, American investors aren't hit with foreign tariffs, only U.S. capital gains taxes." "It's the land of the northern Rockies, big moose and cities so clean and efficient people say they must be run by the Swiss," Caprino observed, thus faithfully reflecting the generalized U.S. belief that the obviously superior quality of Canadian urban life derives more from Alpine capitalist ethereality than from solid Canadian social programs.

Within this context, stateside discourse was, as usual, typified by feints calculated to damn. In the September 7, 1990, Buffalo News, for example, Barry Brown's page-two story, "Ontario Voters Give Socialists Big Victory," accented NDP leader Bob Rae's assurances to the business sector: "Rae moved immediately...to calm pre-election jitters...[said Rae,] 'The future now is a province which has a strong marketplace...in order to produce jobs'" (p.A2).

Brown gave the heart of the NDP platform less ink. In a one-sentence paragraph, he disposed of the New Democrats' proposals for

a modest corporate income tax, increasing the minimum wage, pay equity for women, more day care, and eliminating taxes for the working poor. Then he cut to the bottom line: "The New Democrats also promised to ignore the provisions of the [FTA] but did not spell out what that would mean in practical terms." Brown went on to quote the deposed Liberal premier of Ontario: "[David] Peterson had said Rae's policies 'would kill this province'..." Brown offered a parting shot that "the only other NDP government currently in power is in the Yukon," i.e., in the journalism of stereotype, marginal if not frozen outright.

By September 10, the Buffalo News was editorializing "Leftist Victory in Ontario Shows Political Turbulence: Canadian Voters Troubled by Uncertainties" (p.C2). (It is interesting to note that three days earlier, the paper linked "leftist" to the following: "Three Leftists Plead Guilty to Bombing" [September 7, p. A3, emphasis added].)

Despite the editors' incredulity—"A socialist government in Ontario, the industrial heartland of Canada?"—they saw reason for

hope: "Over the years [i.e., since the NDP's founding, under a different name, during the Great Depression], the party has shed much of its Marxist doctrine of nationalization..." After all, the editorial continued, "The NDP governed responsibly in three western provinces..."

Governing responsible, of course, means governing responsively to business interests.

"Upheaval" Versus "Victory"

"The voters were in an ugly mood...generally disillusioned with politicians," was the editors' familiar refrain. "[This] political upheaval is symptomatic of a remarkable degree of turbulence in Canadian politics..."

When the NDP wins, its victory is called "upheaval"; it is hard to imagine such a characterization if it had been the Liberals or Tories who had had a good day at the polls. And so, as usual, American readers can expect little help in interpreting events to the north or even considering the possibility that real alternatives to voters at the polls might provide

opportunities to debate essential issues.

As it stands western New Yorkers are perpetually marooned with the consolation of megamalls and the myth of the panacea of free trade and weekend shoppers.

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300th Anniversary of Fox's Death

Quakers Strive to Bring Peaceable Kingdom

by Colman McCarthy

WASHINGTON--Some friends of the Friends, the Society of, are taking time this year to reflect on the life and thoughts of George Fox. 1991 marks the 300th anniversary of his death. As the 17th-century founder of the Society of Friends--popularly known as Quakers, believers in group mysticism--Fox, born in 1624 in England, has endured as both a giant of Western spirituality and a rare practitioner of uncompromised religion.

Among other virtuous simplicities, Quakers have no canonization process to declare saints. If they did, St. George Fox would rank with St. Francis of Assisi, St. Benedict and St. Ignatius Loyola--all founders of orders, all writers, and all believers who took incremental leaps of faith over vast chasms of the conventional worship of their times. Like them, Fox had his personal evangelical drives, ones of such upright morality that Friends, carrying them on, can be found, along with Franciscans, Benedictines and Jesuits, in all areas of the world and nearly all ministries.

The most visible work of the Quakers is the American Friends Service Committee, the Philadelphia-based 1947 Nobel Peace Prize winner. Quakerdom's quieter mercies and

No other religious group has been as consistent or passionate an advocate of nonviolence, civil rights, economic justice, humane punishment, governmental honesty and the settlement of differences by mediation

contributions include, in the United States, 60 elementary and high schools, 16 colleges and 30 congregations--called yearly meetings--that have more than 120,000 North American members. In the United States, beginning with William Penn, a Fox contemporary and unique in his fair dealings with native tribes, no other religious group has been as consistent or passionate an advocate of nonviolence, civil rights, economic justice, humane punishment, governmental honesty and the settlement of differences by mediation.

For their unyielding efforts to bring about the peaceable kingdom--including Quakers' refusal to join the favorite pastime of govern-

ments, habitual warmaking--Friends have been hung, flogged, banished and imprisoned. It was to be expected, if George Fox's life was a portent. He was imprisoned for six years after eight convictions for civil disobedience, one more the number of jailings for both Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi.

Through the leadership of Fox, whether from a jail cell or a bench at the Sunday meetings, Quakers established themselves as a peace church, come what may. Much did come, starting with the edicts of warlord kings. In 1660, Fox wrote to Charles II--remembered by Samuel Coleridge as "one of the moral monsters of history"--not to expect the Quakers to take up arms: "We...utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever. And this is our testimony to the whole world....The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as to once command us from a thing as evil and again to move into it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the Spirit of Christ which leads us into all truth will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for any kingdoms of this world."

Fox's double references to "outward weapons" reflected the stance of Quakers who would do battle with inward forces. William James described Friends as practitioners of "a religion of veracity rooted in spiritual inwardness." Fox's writings on "the light within," "the Indwelling" and "inner peace," were a steering away from John Calvin's doctrine of depravity, expounded a century before.

A new eight-volume set of Fox's writings has been published this year. The books, thick as redwoods and lasting as long, are from Fox's journals and letters. Quaker writing--including William Penn, John Woolman and Lucretia Mott--has a spirituality that is often closer to Eastern religions than the organized and structured hierarchies of Catholicism or Protestantism.

Not many trappings--bishops, steeples, encyclicals--are needed. "When Friends have finished their business," Fox advised them, "sit down and continue awhile quietly and wait upon the Lord to fell him. And go not beyond the Power..."

Few Friends have. They number 200,000 worldwide, a large enough grouping to keep strong the "Quaker Peace Testimony" first articulated by Fox. At his death, his last words were, "I am clear, I am fully clear." The sentiments hold up for today's Friends, with a double meaning: they are clear in their ideals and, in dealings with the state, they are clear of complicity.

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399-2621
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Chicago, Illinois
(312) 443-3600
Hours: 10:30-4:30 Mon., Wed.-Fri.;
10:30-8 Tues.; 10-5 Sat.; noon-5 Sun.
Suggested Admission: \$5, seniors, stu-
dents, \$2.50.
Continuing: Ellsworth Kelly. Six paintings
conceived especially for the museum's
Sculpture Court.
Continuing: "The Art of Music: A Salute to
the Centennial Season of the Chicago Sym-
phony Orchestra."
Through September 3: "English and French
Printed Textiles."

Des Moines Art Center

4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa
(515) 277-4405
Hours: 11-5 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday,
and Saturday; 11-9 Thurs.; noon-5 Sun.;
closed Mon.

**The Nelson-Atkins
Museum of Art**

4525 Oak St., Kansas City, Mo.
(816) 561-4000
Hours: 10-5 Tues.-Sat.; 1-5 Sunday.
Admission: \$4 adults; \$1 students.
Permanent collection free on Sat.

Peace Museum

430 W. Erie, Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 440-1860
Due to rising costs of operating the
gallery, the space is closed for the
summer. They hope this will only be
temporary. If fundraising is successful, they
would like to celebrate their 10th birthday
this fall with a grand re-opening. To
support the nation's first museum dedicated
to providing peace education through the
arts and humanities, send contributions to
the above address.

Send calendar information to
Jeanette Morgan
455-7205
P.O. Box 8158
Omaha, NE 68108

a r e a e v e n t s

Note: Information was current as of press time, but changes may occur. Call for updates.

DIRECTORY OF VENUES:

Ballet Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theater, 346-7332.

Bellevue Little Theater, 203 W. Mission Ave., 291-1554.

Bemis Foundation/New Gallery, 614 S. 11th St., 341-7130. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Center Stage Theater, 30th & Q streets, 733-5777.

Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.

Creighton University, Performing Arts Center, 30th & Burt streets; Art Gallery, 27th & California streets, 280-2509.

Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center St., 345-4849.

Firehouse Dinner and Theatre, 11th & Jackson streets, 346-8833.

Grande Olde Players, 701 S. 39th St., 391-7888.

Henry Doorly Zoo, 10th & Deer Park Blvd., 733-8400.

Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., 342-3300. Open Sun 1-5 p.m., closed Mon, Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thur 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

New Cinema, 1514 Davenport St., 346-8033. Screenings most weekends at 5:20, 7:30 & 9:40 Fri & Sat; Sun at 3 p.m.

Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.

Omaha Childrens Museum, 500 S. 20th, 342-6164. Open Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 1-5 p.m.

Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass streets, 553-0800.

Omaha Symphony Orchestra, see listings for venues, 342-3560

Omaha Workshop Theater, 3419 L. St. 558-2953. Shows are every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Opera/Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theater, 346-0357.

Orpheum Theater, 409 S. 16th St., 444-4750.

Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam St.

Rosenblatt Stadium, 13th & Bert Murphy Drive, 734-2550.

Sheldon Film Theater, 12th & R streets in Lincoln. 472-5353.

Strauss Performing Arts Center, on the UNO Campus 63rd & Dodge.

Sunset Speedway, 114th & State, 493-5271.

University of Nebraska at Omaha, 63th & Dodge streets.

Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 S. 19th St., 344-7777.

Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th St., 444-5071.

SPECIAL EVENTS

August 4th: General Interpretive Days-living history portraits of military and civilian life in the 1820's; 10 a.m.-4p.m.; Fort Atkinson State Historical Park, Fort Calhoun, NE. 468-5611.

August 10th-11th: Victorian Garden Walk-includes a guided tour of a Victorian garden, a tour of Fort Omaha aboard Olley the Trolley and access to Douglas County Historical Socioety's Library/Archives. 11 a.m.-4p.m. 455-9990.

August 29th-September 2nd: Thurs.-Fri. 5 p.m.-1 a.m., Sat.-Sun. noon - 1 a.m., Mon. 10 a.m.-midnight. Parade in downtown Omaha at 10 a.m. all other activities at Aksarben. 346-4800.

August 30th-September 1st: La Festa Italiana- music, food, dance and cooking. Italian Mass on Sunday. Sat. noon-9 p.m. Sun. noon-5 p.m. Peony Park. 341-9562.

ENVIRONMENT, PEACE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Earth Day Committee meets every Tuesday at Willa Cather Branch Library, 44th & Center, 6:30 p.m.

Ecology Now meetings every Sunday in Elmwood Park at 4 p.m.

Youth for Peace meeting every Wednesday at 1215 Harney, 6 p.m.

CLEAN (City Lead Environmental Action Nebraska) meets 1st Thursday of each month at Dorothy Lamphire's, 5302 Izard, 554-1108.

No-Name Recycling Group meets every Saturday, 10:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 34th & Farnam.

Special Note: Call Sharon Clawson, 572-8486, if you have any more "Kick the Oil Habit" petitions.

Bisexual Support Group meets first Monday of each month at the Cornerstone (upstairs conference room) 640 N. 16th St., Lincoln, NE.

August 2nd-4th: Pax Christi USA National Assembly "Cry of the Church, Cry for Justice." Creighton University. Activities begin 7 p.m. Friday. Local contact: Ron Green 558-5949

August 10th: No Name Group Recycling Fair. 10-3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 34th & Farnam. Enter through north door.

August 9th-11th: SANE/FREEZE National Conference. Chicago at Loyola University. 312-578-8220.

August 10th: Nebraska Peace Pact. 10 a.m. in Grand Island. 453-0776.

August 13th: Omaha Peace Council meets at noon, Creighton University. Brown bag lunch. 453-0776 for exact location.

August 23rd, 24th and 25th: 4th Annual Peace Arts Fair. Creighton Performing Arts Center. Friday 7:30-9 p.m., Sat. 1-7 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

August 28th: Nebraskans for Peace board meeting. 7 p.m. Augustana Lutheran Church. 453-0776.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS FILM

New Cinema Theatre. 1514 Davenport St. Omaha, NE. One Reel Lunch Series. Thursdays and Fridays 11:45 a.m. with repeat screenings of Thursday's show at 12:30 on Saturday and Friday's show at 2:00 p.m. Saturday.

August 1st: "David Smith: Steel into Sculpture"

August 2nd: "The Brooklyn Bridge"

August 3rd: repeat showings of the above at 12:30 & 2:00 respectively.

August 8th: "Niagra Falls: The Changing Nature of a New World Symbol" & "Wild Horses of the Nevada Desert"

August 9th: "Diego Rivera: I Paint What I See"

August 10th: repeat showings of the above at 12:30 & 2:00 repectively.

August 11th: repeat showings of the above at 12:30 & 2:00 respectively.

August 15th: "On the Road with Duke Ellington"

August 16th: "Broken Rainbow"

August 17th: repeat showings of the above at 12:30 & 2:00 respectively.

August 22nd: "Jazz: The Intimate Art"

August 23rd: "The Wilderness Idea: John Muir, Gifford Pinchot and the First Great Battle for Wilderness"

August 24th: repeat showings of the above at 12:30 & 2:00 respectively.

Bring your sack lunch. Series ticket price \$35 (all 14 screenings). Individual tickets \$3.50.

Saturday Series. Screenings at 5:20, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m.

August 3rd: "Sotto. . .Sotto"

August 10th: "Seven Women Seven Sins"

August 17th: "No Regrets for Our Youth"

August 24th: to be announced.

Sheldon Film Theater; Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery; University of Nebraska - Lincoln; 12th & R Sts; Lincoln, NE; Film Information Phone: (402) 472-5353.

August 1st-11th: "The Vanishing" Screenings at 7 & 9 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Matinees on Saturday at 1 & 3 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 & 5 p.m.

August 15th-25th: "Nasty Girl" and Sally Cruikshank mini-festival. Screenings at 7 & 9:15 p.m. Thursday- Sunday. Matinees on Saturday at 12:45 & 3 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 and 4:45 p.m.

Creighton University

MUSIC & DANCE

Howard Street Tavern: New Music Tuesdays all month.

Wednesday night coffee house series at the Blue Barn Theatre, 1258 S. 13th. 8 p.m. Call 346-5037 with questions or contributions.

"Jazz on the Green," summer concert series held Thursday evenings featuring local and regional jazz, blues and swing, outdoors in the Sculpture Garden at Joslyn, 7 p.m.

August 13th: Noon. Justifiably Acoustic Music features Frank Fong, casual jazz, at Metro Arts Artspace.

August 23rd: Pioneer Disaster with Elysium Crossing at the Blue Barn Theatre 13th & William.

August 29th: Luigi Waites piano forum at Metro Arts Artspace, 8 p.m.

THEATER

June 4th-August 11th: "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" at the Firehouse Dinner and Theatre. Tues-Sat at 8 p.m., Sun 2 & 7 p.m. at the Upstairs Dinner Theater.

Held over: "Dead Weight" at the Magic Theatre. Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m.

July 12-August 17th: "Bates Cafe" fun-filled spoof on Hitchcock's "Psycho" Circle Theatre. 553-4715.

Johnny Gosch's Parents: Everything Checked Out

by Frances Mendenhall

Johnny Gosch, the twelve-year-old who disappeared nine years ago in September while delivering Sunday newspapers in West Des Moines, has been in the news in recent weeks. Information about his captivity has been given by Paul Bonacci from the Lincoln Correctional Center in interviews with investigator Roy Stephens. Bonacci, along with Alisha Owen and Alan Baer, were indicted for perjury by the Douglas County grand jury a year ago. On June 21, within hours of Owen's conviction, perjury charges against Bonacci were dropped, but his attorney still has a civil suit pending against a long list of individuals and institutions who allegedly contributed to his abuse. Like his testimony to the grand jury, the recent information is being disregarded by the Omaha Police Department and the FBI. This time, however, Bonacci has made believers of at least two close to the case, Johnny Gosch's parents.

John Gosch, Johnny's father, recalled in a telephone interview with the Observer the first time he was with Bonacci, late last year, visiting him in the prison. "I walked into the room with DeCamp (John DeCamp is Bonacci's attorney). He didn't even introduce me, and they spent some time talking about something else. But Bonacci kept staring at me unnervingly. Finally, he changed the subject and blurted out to me, 'you look like Johnny Gosch.'" DeCamp also described the encounter to the Observer and said he had not prepared Bonacci in any way, and had not even told him ahead of time that they were coming. The elder Gosch was astonished. Bonacci was to reveal more remarkable details.

Beginning January 14, 1991, investigator Roy Stephens conducted a series of interviews with Bonacci. They were taped, transcripts typed, and copies sent to state law enforcement offices, social service agencies, a judge and three psychiatrists. Below is some of the information from those interviews.

Bonacci, 23, has been diagnosed as having multiple personalities, a condition which, according to experts in the field, has its onset usually before the age of nine in victims of child abuse, usually including physical, sexual, and psychological mistreatment. Some of his personalities he describes as having been formed by particular events. They arose to "take care of" certain things, so that Paul wouldn't have to manage everything. The personality who first spoke about Johnny Gosch is named Alexandrew.

In the January 14, 1991 interview, Bonacci, as Alexandrew, remembered the first time he saw Gosch as being September 12, 1982, at a farm house near Sioux City. An underworld figure named Emilio, who Bonacci said "kidnap(ped) kids and took them to Las Vegas" picked Bonacci up in Omaha and drove him to the farm house. Gosch was waiting in a small room with another boy named Joey.

Gosch had black jogging pants on and later Bonacci saw him wearing a sweat shirt that said "Kim's Academy."

Gosch talked hesitatingly, sometimes stuttering, and told him he was from Des Moines and that someone had grabbed him and taken him away while he was doing his paper route.

Emilio told Bonacci and another boy named Mike he wanted to take pictures of boys having sex, and that Bonacci was to have sex with the two younger boys. Bonacci objected, but when Emilio threatened to have Bonacci taken away, he did as he was told. The boys cried and fought, but Emilio kicked them and hit them until they gave in.

Bonacci told of seeing Gosch another time, in 1986, at a ranch near Colorado Springs. It took him a little time to recognize Gosch this time because his hair, as well eyelashes, were black and he believed that it had been dyed. Gosch had been branded on a buttock with a branding iron as punishment for trying to escape. Bonacci, Gosch and a third boy named Mike were the "entertainment" for a birthday party and passed around "like we were whores."

Gosch had been renamed "Mark." He told Bonacci that he had been told that his family was dead and that his parents didn't want him any more. Gosch appeared to be living on the ranch, captive of a man and woman who stayed there who had abused him and brainwashed him. The man and woman were said to be married for show, "so that they could get foster kids in their house."

Another personality, Mikey, remembered that Gosch had a big dark birthmark on his chest shaped like South America.

In a later interview, another personality, "Alexander (Alexandrew's twin)" came out. Bonacci as Alexander remembered that the ranch was in Buena Vista Colorado, and supplied more details about the location and description.

Finally, in March, another personality, Sean, was revealed. Other personalities said that Sean hardly ever came out. Sean remembered details of Gosch's kidnapping. "It wasn't that long ago...to me it's like about a month ago," he said. Stephens said in the interview, "You've never told anyone this before, have you?" Bonacci, as Sean, replied, "No. We knew we'd get in trouble." Bonacci said that Emilio called him at home the first or second weekend after school started in 1982 and later met him at the Safeway at 29th and St. Mary's. Another boy, Mike went along. They went to Des Moines, stayed in a motel Saturday night, and got up early Sunday morning. Bonacci rode in the trunk of the car at first, and Mike was on the floor in the back covered with a blanket. Emilio stopped and asked for directions, then went around the block, then stopped, let Bonacci out of the trunk and threatened to shoot him if he didn't cooperate. The two were supposed to gag and hold Gosch down. Bonacci didn't remember seeing anything outside the car because he was staying low. He said that Gosch stuttered and cried, but couldn't say

much because they gagged him.

In the nine years since Johnny's disappearance, John and Noreen Gosch have heard many possible leads and repeatedly had their hopes dashed. Once they were bilked out of \$10,000 by someone who said he knew where Johnny was. By now they are accustomed to greeting any promising new leads with skepticism. In fact, John Gosch told the Observer, they no longer even hope to find him alive, given the length of time and the abuse he likely would have had to have suffered. The best they can hope for is that he died a quick death and that they will be able to find his grave and bring his abusers to some kind of justice.

Nor do they hold any hopes that law enforcement agencies will be any help. "The FBI has no intention of interviewing him (Bonacci)," Gosch told the Observer, and that was fine with the Gosches, who do not believe that law enforcement will ever resolve the

case. Their hope is now with the work of private investigator Roy Stephens.

What of the credibility of Bonacci's information? Gosch told the Observer that Bonacci had identified photos of a couple of key individuals. "Everything checked out," he said. The house in Sioux City had burned down, but neighbors confirmed what it looked like. Johnny did have a birthmark like the one Bonacci described. He did have a sweatshirt that said "Kim's Academy" on it. And the way Bonacci described how Johnny acted and talked was as his father remembered.

Noreen Gosch told the Des Moines Register, "There were photographs taken of Johnny prior to the kidnapping" by the abductors. "We know this because a woman reported it to the police. We're convinced Bonacci saw those pictures. He accurately described the location, which is not far from our home. He described many things about the pictures which we have never publicly talked about."

Roy Stephens, Investigator

by Frank Santiago

Roy Stephens, the investigator working with attorney John DeCamp to find the men who abused Paul Bonacci, was the subject of recent controversy.

Stephens led Norfolk police to David Phelps, the Perry, Ia., native, who was convicted earlier this year of kidnapping 9-year-old Jill Cutshall from Norfolk in 1987.

In the celebrated case, Stephens took Phelps to a wildlife preserve near Norfolk and fired a gun into the air. Phelps then gave a statement to a television crew summoned to a motel room by Stephens. Phelps said he was with Cutshall the day she disappeared.

A tape of the interview was crucial evidence against Phelps. He was found guilty of kidnapping. Cutshall never has been found.

The arrest and conviction was a victory for Stephens, but he got flack from police and prosecutors and Phelps' lawyers.

A prosecutor accused Stephens of being a loose cannon, an unprofessional ex-felon known to police as the "big dummy."

What the critics didn't note was that Stephens—who was in prison 15 years ago in California for safe-cracking—was getting applause, including from Cutshall's mother, for solving the difficult case.

"It was a period I went through that I'm very ashamed of," Stephens says of his safe-cracking days. "But it has laid the foundation for what I have done with missing children."

Recently, the 40-year-old Stephens has been getting more praise. He was named outstanding man of the year by Jaycees in Nebraska for his work in recovering children. In a Forbes magazine article this year,

Watergate figure G. Gordon Liddy, who operates an academy for corporate security in Miami, said Stephens was tops in finding missing children.

"The best in the business in that field, according to a survey of his peers, is Roy Stephens, who, working out of Omaha through his non-profit Missing Youth Foundation, has recovered some 50 missing children over the last five-and-a half years. May you never require his services," Liddy wrote.

Stephens says he expects to get to the bottom of the baffling Gosch case and then turn the information over to authorities.

"I'm not trying to locate Johnny." Those things prove fruitless. I've tried to come at it from a different angle and concentrate on the information on the perpetrators and find them."

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Thanks to all who contributed to the fund to administer a lie detector test to Paul Bonacci. We are more than half way to our goal.

—John DeCamp